

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for generating logo data to be stored in and printed by a printer, the apparatus comprising:

a control data receiving unit configured to receive control data including specific settings data and model identification data identifying a model of at least one target printer in which the logo data is to be stored;

a source data obtaining unit configured to obtain source data used to generate the logo data;

a reading unit configured to read, based on the model identification data, model-specific data for the at least one target printer from respective model-specific data stored for a plurality of printer models;

a logo data generating unit configured to generate the logo data by processing the source data based on the model-specific data read by the reading unit or on control data received by the control data receiving unit; and

a storage unit configured to store the logo data generated by the logo data generating unit.

2. An apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the control data is limited to model-specific data that can be identified by the model identification data.

3. An apparatus as described in claim 2, wherein the control data receiving unit is adapted to disable receipt of at least some data for which setting is not required based on previously received or set control data.

4. An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein at least some control data are initialized to respective specific values that can be changed based on other control data received from the control data receiving unit.

5. An apparatus as described in claim 4, wherein the control data receiving unit is adapted to enable specifying colors available for printing in, or print resolution of, the at least one target printer.

6. An apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein the logo data generating unit is adapted to assign source data colors to specific colors printable by the at least one target printer based on the model-specific data and settings data.

7. An apparatus as described in claim 6, wherein the stored model-specific data includes communications parameters for each of the plurality of printer models, and the reading unit is adapted to set communications parameters for sending logo data to the at least one target printer based on the model-specific data.

8. An apparatus as described in claim 7, further comprising an output unit configured to output the generated logo data, the output unit being adapted to output a file containing the logo data, a printer registration command for storing the logo data in the at least one target printer, and a data transmission command for sending the printer registration command and logo data to the at least one target printer.

9. An apparatus as described in 7, further comprising an output unit configured to output the generated logo data, the output unit being adapted to send the logo data and a command that causes the at least one target printer to store the logo data therein.

10. An apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein the control data receiving unit has a graphical user interface input function.

11. An apparatus as described in claim 10, wherein the control data receiving unit does not display input items for which setting is not required based on received or set control data.

12. An apparatus as described in claim 11, further comprising a display adapted to display an image based on the source data and an image based on data after processing by the logo data generating unit.

13. An apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein the display is adapted to display the images aligned for comparison on one side of the display.

14. A method for generating logo data to be stored in and printed by a printer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining source data;

(b) receiving control data including specific settings data for generating the logo data and model identification data identifying a model of at least one target printer in which the logo data is to be stored;

(c) reading, based on the model identification data, model-specific data for the at least one target printer from respective model-specific data stored for a plurality of printer models;

(d) generating logo data by processing the source data obtained in step (a) based on the model-specific data read in step (c) or on control data received in step (b); and

(e) storing the generated logo data.

15. A method as described in claim 14, wherein step (d) comprises assigning source data colors to specific colors printable by the at least one target printer based on the model-specific data and settings data received in step (b).

16. A method as described in claim 15, wherein step (d) comprises converting the size of the image represented by the source data and the resolution of that image to a paper width and print resolution, respectively, usable by the at least one target printer as specified in the model-specific data.

17. A method as described in claim 14, wherein step (b) comprises receiving control data via a graphical user interface.

18. A method as described in claim 17, further comprising the step of:

(f) outputting the generated logo data as an executable file containing the logo data and a data transmission program for sending the logo data and a command causing the at least one target printer to store the logo data therein.

19. A method as described in claim 17, further comprising the step of:

(g) sending the logo data and a command causing the at least one target printer to directly store the logo data therein.

20. A data storage medium embodying a program of instructions for directing the execution of a method for generating logo data to be stored in and printed by a printer, the program of instructions comprising:

(a) instructions for obtaining source data;

(b) instructions for receiving control data including specific settings data for generating the logo data and model identification data identifying a model of at least one target printer in which the logo data is to be stored;

(c) instructions for reading, based on the model identification data, model-specific data for the at least one target printer from respective model-specific data stored for a plurality of printer models;

(d) instructions for generating logo data by processing the source data obtained in (a) based on the model-specific data read in (c) or on control data received in (b); and

(e) instructions for storing the generated logo data.

21. A data storage medium as described in claim 20, wherein (d) comprises instructions for assigning source data colors to specific colors printable by the at least one target printer based on the model-specific data and settings data received in (b).

22. A data storage medium as described in claim 21, wherein (d) comprises instructions for converting the size of the image represented by the source data and the resolution of that image to a paper width and print resolution, respectively, usable by the at least one target printer as specified by the model-specific data.

23. A data storage medium as described in claim 20, wherein (b) comprises instructions for receiving control data via a graphical user interface.

24. A data storage medium as described in claim 23, further comprising:

(f) instructions for outputting the generated logo data as an executable file containing the logo data and a data transmission program for sending the logo data and a command causing the at least one target printer to store the logo data therein.

5 25. A data storage medium as described in claim 23, further comprising:

(g) instructions for sending the logo data and a command causing the at least one target printer to directly store the logo data therein.

26. A logo data generating system, comprising:

memory for storing a printer model name and a predetermined number of printable colors, and print resolution of the printer model;

a reading unit for reading source data to obtain image data provided for printing as logo data;

a display unit for reading and displaying the printer model name, number of printable colors, and print resolution stored in memory;

a selection unit for selecting a target printer for printing out the logo data from among the printer model names displayed on the display unit; and

a logo data generating unit for processing the source data to create logo data for printing based on the model name of the target printer selected by the selection unit and the number of printable colors, and print resolution of the selected target printer.

27. A logo data generating system as described in claim 26, further comprising a data transmission unit for sending the logo data generated by the logo data generating unit to the target printer.

28. A logo data generating system as described in claim 26, further comprising a second memory for storing the logo data generated by the logo data generating unit.

29. A logo data generating system as described in claim 26, wherein the memory stores paper width attributes of the printer model, the display unit displays the stored paper width attributes, and the logo data generating unit processes the

source data to create logo data for printing also based on the paper width attributes of the selected target printer.

TO: "PATENT" "OFFICE"